to write off the outstanding loans and interest of all borrowers in the tourism, transport, small scale industry and trade sectors in the State of Jammu and Kashmir whose original borrowings were less than or upto Rs. 50,000/-. The modalities for implementation for such waiver are being worked out.

[Translation]

Industrial Units in U.P.

5654. PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether not a single industrial unit is set up in many districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to declare them as 'No Industry Districts'; and

(d) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). During the period August, 1991 to July, 1996, 78 Industrial Licences and 249 Letters of Intent were granted for setting up industries and 2573 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda were filed for setting up industries spread over various districts of Uttar Pradesh. After the liberalisation of Industrial Policy it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create congenial 'atmosphere' and providing infrastructural facilities for industrial development of the State/district. At present Government of India have no proposal to declare any district as a 'No Industry District'.

Loan Repayment Credibility

5655. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of India's improved balance of payments position, there is no possibility of upgradation of India's status interms of loan repayment credibility by International Credit Rating Organisations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any request has been made to these organisations to review the status of the country in terms of loan repayment credibility;

(d) if so, whether these agencies have decided to review the status of India interms of loan repayment credibility; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). International Credit Rating Organisations undertake detailed annual reviews of India's balance of payments situation and other major economic indicators, in order to review India's Credit Rating. During recent years, the 2 major international Rating Organisations viz. Moody's and Japan Bond Research Institute, have already upgraded India to the 'investment grade'. Standard & Poor's have completed their latest review in August 1996, and their Report on the same is awaited.

[English]

Coir Industry

5656. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the coir industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Under modernisation scheme of Coir Industry, financial assistance is extended for retting of green husk fibre in concrete tanks using 'coirret', a bacterial strain developed by Coir Board in lieu of the traditional method of immersing it in backwaters. This process will replace the natural retting of coconut husk in backwaters creating pollution of surface water and eliminate drudgery in fibre extraction.To eliminate surface water pollution due to natural retting, treatment of effluent generated during retting is also envisaged. Pith is a waste product accumulated in large quantity in the fibre production centres and creating environment pollution. Converting coir pith into organic manure by using 'pith plus', a fungus developed by the Coir Board is part of the scheme.

Polularising motorised ratt for mechanically spinning coir yarn instead of the traditional manual process, extending financial assistance for construction of loom sheds for the manufacture of coir products and setting up of Common Facility Centre for use of small units for dyeing and bleaching are also part of the scheme. For mechanised process of manufacture, financial assistance is extended for setting up of units and for modernisation of the existing coir units in brown fibre sector. The scheme envisages popularising semi automatic looms and fully automatic looms for weaving coir matting. Further, assistance for implementation of the Integrated Coir Development Project in coir producing States is also covered under the scheme of modernisation.

Under the Integrated Coir Development Project of Kerala which is the modernisation component of the cooperativisation scheme, establishment of 100 defibering units for mechanical extraction of coir fibre and 20,000